

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 00143 311515Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /020 W
-----101454 010118Z/64

R 311310Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5821

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EO 11652: XGDS- EXPIRES 1998
TAGS: PINT IT PINR
SUBJECT: SBIO MATERIAL ON DAVIDE LAJOLO

1. LONGTIME CONSULATE CONTACT GUELFO ZACCARIA, SOMETIME JOURNALIST WHO KNOWS ITALIAN PRESS WORLD IN BREATHTAKING DETAIL, HAS GIVEN US FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF DAVIDE LAJOLO.; LATTER IS EDITOR OF WEEKLY MAGAZINE GIORNI AND AUTHOR, IN FEB 2. ISSUE, OF NASTY AND UNTRUTHFUL ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR GARDNER.

2. LAJOLO, SAID ZACCARIA, HAS BEEN EDITOR OF GIORNI FOR WELL OVER DECADE, MAGAZINE WAS FOUNDED BY LUIGI LONGO ABOUT 1947 AS VIE NUOVE AND UNTIL ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO WAS OFFICIAL PCI ORGAN. FINANCED BY PCI DOMINATED LEAGUE OF COOPERATIVES, IT IS STILL COMMUNIST MOUTHPIECE BUT ONLY SEMI-OFFICIALLY SO.

3. LAJOLO AND HIS MAGAZINE DID CURIOUS FLIP-FLOP DURING PERIOD OF RUSSIAN INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE FIRST DEFENDED RUSSIAN ACTION, EVEN AFTER PCI HAD CONDEMNED IT. SO DOGGEDLY DID HE PURSUE THIS LINE THAT SOME COMMUNISTS THEMSELVES ACCUSED HIM OF BEING IN PAY OF RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR. AFTER YEAR OR SO HE DID COMPLETE TURNAROUND, PUBLISHING CLAMOROUS INTERVIEW WITH ONE SBERKOLSKI (SPELLING?), NUMBER TWO AMONG CZECH NATIONALISTS AFTER DUBCEK, THAT MARKED BEGINNING OF VIOULENTLY ANTI-SOVIET PHASE. COMMUNISTS AGAIN

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CRITICIZED HIM, THIS TIME FOR GOING OVERBOARD IN CRITICISM OF USSR.

4. LAJOLO WAS SEVERAL-TERM DEPUTY, UNTIL 1976. HE WAS ON PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE, BUT IS NO LONGER, AND IS FORMER EDITOR OF L'UNITA'. HE IS ALSO FORMER FASCIST WHO ALLEGEDLY DID NOT SEE LIGHT UNTIL MID-1944. (ANOTHER SOURCE TOLD US HE PUBLISHED

BOOK ON MUSSOLINI IN 1936.) TODAY HE IS WELL-KNOWN AND
RESONABLY WEIGHTY LEFTIST PRESS FIGURE.

5. ZACCARIA, SOURCE OF ABOVE, IS FORMER COMMUNIST WITH NO LOVE
FOR FORMER COMRADES OR THEIR ORIENTATION. HE IS, HOWEVER, MAN WHO
IN OUR EXPERIENCE KNOWS WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT WHERE ITALIAN
PRESS AND POLITICAL PERSONALITIES ARE CONCERNED.FINA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PUBLICATIONS, EDITORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MILAN00143
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: AS 19981231
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780047-0042
Format: TEL
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978014/aaaaacsm.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f18c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3739293
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SBIO MATERIAL ON DAVIDE LAJOLO
TAGS: PINT, PINR, IT, (ZACCARIA, GUELFO), (LAJOLO, DAVIDE)
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f18c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014